critical digest

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New York Theatre Week

The Bad Seed-46th St 12/8. Playwrights Company presents Maxwell Anderson's adaption of William March's novel with Nancy Kelly,Patty McCormick,Eileen Heckart,staged by Reginald Denham...High Named Today-De Lys 12/10. Nico Productions present a new play by David Goodman with Art Smith,Dorothy Blackburn,directed by George Englund. ...Lunatics and Lovers- Broadhurst 12/13. May Kirshner presents new comedy by Sidney Kingsley with Dennis King,Shelia Bond,Vicki Cummings.Directed by the author... Witness for the Prosecution-Miller 12/16. Gilbert Miller and Peter Saunders present Agatha Christie new mystery with Francis L Sullivan, Patricia Jessel and Ernest Clark. Directed by Robert Lewis.

Digests of Current Week Theatre Reviews

Mrs. Patterson- National 12/1. 100% NY daily critics raved about the dramatic abilities of Eartha Kitt as portrayed in this new play with incidental music presented by Leonard Sillman, but only Chapman,News, okayed the play. Critic raved that play by Charles Sebree and Greer Johnson is the most exciting piece of theatre encountered so far this season. The pleasant thrills it offers,he reports,come from the way it has been conceived and written and from the splendid way it is acted by a remarkable company. Enid Markey,in the title role, Ruth Attaway,Terry Carter,Avon Long and Helen Dowdy shared acting applause with star. Though all critics recommended seeing show for Kitt alone, they all expressed thought that script was dull in spots. Pedestrian dialogue,summed up Atkinson,Times. Play has no style at all, added Kerr,Herald Tribune. Earthbound,advised McClain,Journal American. Hawkins, World Telegram & Sun,also enjoyed star and the 8 slight songs provided,but found script is not recognizable as a play.

Hit the Trail- Hellinger 12/2.-12/4. $200,000 loss as result of closing of new musical presented by Elizabeth Miele for four perfomances before closing. Awful script and lyrics were unanimoussly panned by all NY daily reviewers. Cast headed by Irra Petina, Paul Valentine and Robert Wright were excused from the blame, they just didn't have anything to work with. Book by Frank O'Neill,music by Frederico Valerio, and lyrics by the producer took a verbal beating. Atkinson,Times, cheered cast for their heroism in putting up a good front after many weeks of rehearsal with the dud. Leo Kerz' scenery was okayed by Kerr,Herald Tribune,who could find nothing else to be pleasant about. A sketch about women at a reducing saloon was enjoyed by Chapman, News,who would have liked show better if it was called "Hit the Tail." Book comes as close to being nothing as a musical comedy libretto readily could,rapped Watts,Post. Evening includes every cliche in the musical theatre book,summed up McClain,J.Am.

Yiddish Theatre Prospects

More and more young persons,not too conversant with the Yiddish language are attending Wish Me Luck,at the Second Ave.Theatre, producer Irving Jacobson told Dash, Women's Wear. There is enough English to make the story line clear without a printed synopsis,and the insertions flow naturally . If the organizations who formerly sponsored benefits continue to refuse to come downtown to Second ave, the Yiddish theatre they said, may have to move into the Broadway belt.

Off Broadway

Two of the original four Circle in The Square partners- Ted Mann and Jose Quintero are hunting for a theatre to continue their well known group. At present Mann is in The Bad Seed, while Quintero is staging Portrait of a Lady.

Equity Library Theatre's 3rd annual "Cocktail Revue" will be held Sun.Dec 12 at Picadilly Hotel from 4 to 8 PM.Stanley Prager will be master of ceremonies.

The Holly and The Ivy will be presented by Pilgrim Players at Broadway Tabernacle Church Dec 8-11...Noah production by Broadway Chapel Players will give four extra performances Sundays at 5 PM in Jan...Too Much Money a musical comedy will be presented by Lilyan Brown Dec 10 at Henry Lincoln Johnson Lodge W 126.

The Troublemakers,which was presented by New Dramatists' Committee in 1952 , will be presented at President Theatre last week in Dec...Deutsches Theatre, Inc, will present Molnar's The Plays' The Thing in German at Hunter Playhouse Jan 6,7,8 also Dec 26...Renaissance Drama Readers,168 W 58,present Sat. afternoon and evening programs.

Nancy Wickwire, Way of the World,joined The Grand Prize cast...Ruth White,Noah, joined The Troublemakers cast.

In Splendid Error will resume at Greenwich Mews Jan 4 for at least 4 weeks.

The Importance of Being Earnest at provincetown was rated as a hilarious evening off Broadway by Kerner,Women's Wear who enjoyed the spirited performances given. But Geor,Variety, found it acceptable enough,but not up to the stiff competition of Off Broadway these days.

Vaudeville

New Radio City Music Hall show features famed "Nativity" pageant" plus revue "King Kringle" with Shirlee Emmons. Film is "Deep in My Heart."

Futures

Dec 8-	THE BAD SEED	46th St
Dec 10	[illegible] NAMED TODAY	De Lys
Dec 13	L[illegible] & LOVERS	Broadhurst
Dec 16	WITN. FOR PROS	Miller
Dec 19	STARS IN PERSONS	BACKYARD
Dec 21	PORTRAIT OF LADY	ANTA
De[illegible]	WHAT EVERY WOMAN	City Center
De[illegible]	HOUSE OF FLOWERS	Alvin
D[illegible] 26	BLACK EYED SUSAN	Playhouse
D[illegible] 27	SAINT OF BLEECKER ST	
D[illegible] 27	TROUBLEMAKERSA	President
Dec 28	FLOWERING PEACH	Belasco
Jan 3	Anastasia	
Jan 4	Purple Dust	Bijou
Jan 5	Time of Life	City Center
Jan 11	Doctor's Dilemma	Phoenix
Jan 12	festival	
Jan 19	Fourposter	City Center
Jan 20	Plain & Fancy	
Jan 21	Silk Stockings	Imperial
Jan 26	Desperate Hours	
Jan 30	Samarcand	

West Coast

Victory Jory will stage Trelawney of the Wells at Pasadena Playhouse Dec 16...Sean O'Casey's Shadow of a Gunman presented at Stage Society Theatre.

Theatre Book Comments

"The Dramatic Event" by Eric Bentley (Horizon Press) was highly recommended by two reviewers. Playwright Paul Green, Times,tabbed New Republic critic as one of the most exciting dramatic critics writing today, and the book one of the best on the American theatre. Burr, Playbill, labeled Bentley's reviews as vigorous,intelligent,provocative and iconoclastic.

TUNE WRCA BEN GRAUER 7 30 AM newscast day after Broadway opening for quotes of reviews compiled by "C.D."

' Green Room Department '

ROBERT EDMOND JONES...Memorial exhibit of stage paintings and sketches of Robert Edmond Jones, which the Scene Designer's Union was planning before his death, should be put together and shown, urges Chapman, News. It would not only be a tirbute to a great man gone, but it would be an inspiration to the artists who are working for our delight in the theatre now. These artists, critic reminds, should be reminded that the theatre must not always be confined to the standard living room, the sofa, the telephone desk and the liquor loaded sideborad which usually confront today's unhappy playgoers.
MEMORIAL SERVICE for Jones will be held Sun Dec 12 at 5 PM at Plymouth Theatre.

COLUMN TIPS...New Yorkers will go bad about 19 year old Diahann Carroll, House of Flowers, predicts Winchell...Yiddish theatre producers Irving and Henrietta Jacobson are feuding, reports Walker...Four Broadway chestnut vendors have moved south to stands infront of Off Broadway Theatre de Lys, notes Sullivan.

DRAMA GROUND RULES...If the play begins with someone answering the telephone and explaining the situation to the audience through a phone conversation, it's going to be a dull evening, details Harris, Chicago News Syndicate. If the action commences with someone sliding, slipping with a huge clatter, sit back, close your eyes and put on your ear-muffs. And finally, he advises to the would be critic, if you must doze off after the curtain rises bring along a compenion to adminster wake up pokes before you begin to snore.

CRITICAL THOUGHTS...Trio of letter writers to Times Drama Mailbag complained of "con" review filed by Atkinson on The Living Room...Considering prevalence of yes and no notices filed this season, Variety, thinks it good idea that Watts, Post, added clarifying note to his One Eye Closed pan notice...Self control of controls who didn't pun on One Eye Closed title, claims Watts, Post, explodes false legends that reviewers can't resist such practices.

CHRISTMAS VIEWING...McClain, Journal American, selection of "good" shows to see include Caine Mutiny Court Martial, Tea and Sympathy, Pajama Game, Can Can, Kismet, Boy-Friend, Quadrille, Teahouse of the August Moon, and The Rainmaker.

INTERVIEW HI-LITES...Sandhog hero has to overcome physical fear and the larger fear that makes men selfish, co-author Waldo Salt explained to Herridge, Post. Incidents in Dreiser's short story are based on history, a part of the sandhogs long fight for safer working conditions.

' Pros & Cons by TMK '

Mrs. Patterson, thanks to perfect casting and an ingenious idea, makes a delightful evening in the theatre. Admitedly the script has some stretches of dull dialogue, but the many humorous touches plus the inspired acting of Eartha Kitt in her first NY dramatic role more than make up for it. For those still not convinced they are getting their money's worth, remember Miss Kitt sings eight(8) songs. Actually Enid Markey's hilarious portrayal of the title character is worth the evening's attendance.

Hit the Trail had its title and cast switched at least three times. Nothing helped.

Annual at this time the "theatre shortage" situation develops. With the abundance of productions scheduled for the year, it is almost a certainity that the first person brave enough to build a new theatre will have it booked solid for the year. But no one has got past the talking stages of new construction as yet.

The Comedie Francaise will pay its first visit to Broadway next fall sponsored by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and S. Hurok. Company of fifty will offer two or three plays and may include Moliere's Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme. First stop in its North American debut would be in Montreal. Plans call for a month's visit to Broadway starting in late September.

Plays

Shows that closed: Abie's Irish Rose, Living Room, On Your Toes, Sands of Negev, I Feel Wonderful...Anniversary Waltz moved to Booth...Witness for the Prosecution will open Dec 16 at Miller...Black Eyed Susan switched opening date back to original scheduled date ...Anastasia will open in NY Jan 3...Hello Paree has setback opening to Jan and will not open Dec 14...William Inge's Bus Stop will open in NY in Feb.

People

George Keane replaces Elliott Nugent in Seven Year Itch with Tom Ewell returning Dec 27...Gloria Vanderbilt makes Broadway debut in Time of Your Life...Gloria DeHaven will make her Broadway debut in Seventh Heaven musical version planned for spring... John Chapman, News, will head tour of Europe for Duffy Travel Service next summer... Joan Fontaine leaves Tea and Sympathy March 1...James Gregory added to Desperate Hours ...Eddie Fisher will star in East Side, new musical planned by Irving Berlin...Moon for the Misbegotten hunting for attractive, large size woman for role in O'Neill play.

Other Broadways

Porgy and Bess company will tour Near East-Mediterranean after Paris run. Group opens at Milan's La Scala Feb 19...Society for Promotion and Presentation of Works of Art project incorporated to set up summer festival at open air theatre on private estate outside of Cambridge to present Frank Wedekind's Such Is Life .

Theatre Film Notes

Moss Hart signed for 3 scripts at Columbia...Film version of Bullfight will be made in Lisbon next June with Farley Granger, Franchot Tone, Rita Gam and Maria Riva ...Finian's Rainbow cartoon features voices of Frank Sinatra and Barry Fitzgerald.

Theatre TV & Radio Notes

Joseph Shipley's drama reviews of first nights now heard at 11 25 on WEVD, NY... NBC TV will present Max Leibman production of Babes in Toyland Dec 18...ANTA Album will be presented on closed circuit TV Feb 21 to theatres around the country. Proceeds will be shared by ANTA and CARE...Maurice Evans has made plans to present a Shaw play next on TV, Man and Superman or Devil's Disciple... Darkness at Noon will be presented this season on CBS TV Omnibus.

CRITICAL DIGEST
505-5th Ave, NYC

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